



APAPA

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association Community Education Foundation (APAPA-CEF)

Empowering and Engaging Asian Pacific Islander Americans

Non-profit organization 501(c) 3 Tax ID No. 55-0849384

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Austin Texas Chapter, 6200 Brodie Lane, Austin, TX 78745 Tel 512-658-7687 Fax 512-261-6879
Greater DC Chapter, 13300 Rippling Brook Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906 Tel 301-237-7490

September 14, 2015

The Honorable Tom Torlakson,
Superintendent of Public Instruction
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Superintendent Torlakson:

The Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) asks to include the Asian Lunar New Year as part of the History – Social Science Framework.

Lunar New Year is celebrated in many Asian communities around the world, including the United States, and especially California - where it is predominantly celebrated by 2.5 million Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese residents as a significant part of their deeply held cultural family traditions.

Please include a discussion of the Asian Lunar New Year in the History-Social Science Framework. The discussion should focus on how the Lunar New Year is a tradition that is practiced in different communities. Students should compare how it is celebrated in their local communities and how it connects people today to traditions from the past. The framework should also note that this sometimes is viewed as a religious holiday and the teaching of the Lunar New Year should be done respectfully while avoiding endorsing religious practices.

Sincerely,

C.C. Yin
Founder and Chair,
Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association

cc. Thomas Adams, Ph.D., Executive Director, Instructional Quality Commission
Michael Kirst, President of the State Board of Education

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